Non-procurement of paddy by FCI in Orissa

164. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers of Orissa are being compelled to sell paddy at the rate of Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- only as FCI is not purchasing the paddy in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Zonal Office of FCI at Kolkata is showing step motherly attitude towards Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Normally, in Orissa, paddy is purchased by the Millers and part of the milled rice is handed over to Food Corporation of India under levy. FCI has collected 3.72 lakh tonnes of a levy rice in Orissa upto 18.2.2001, as compared to 3.52 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

(c) No Sir.

UNO approval for wheat for oil trade agreement

165. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to seek approval of the United Nations Organisation Sanctions Committee for implementing the wheat-for-oil trade agreement finalised recently between India and Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an understanding has been reached in